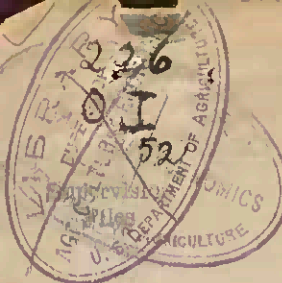


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JUN 6 1936

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT
of
AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 52 A.

FOR USE
IN WEEK
BEGINNING
OCT. 21, 1918.

OUR PART IN FEEDING THE NATION.

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

FEDERAL GRADING INSURES STANDARD GRAIN.



Photo Copyright by Committee on Public Information.
Army Labor Battalion Unloading American Wheat at a French Port.

Good Wheat and Corn Here and Abroad.

Tests Applied to Grains from Country Elevators to Holds of Transatlantic Liners—Premium Is Provided for Product of Better Quality.

From country elevators to the hold of a transatlantic liner wheat and corn destined for the Army and the Allies and almost all of that arriving at mills and terminal markets is handled on grades fixed and applied under Federal supervision. The inspection of wheat and shelled corn is under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture, with licensed inspectors located at small markets, terminals or at the seaboard and the standards in use are the same at all inspection points. Before Federal grades were in effect there was little uniformity in grain standards at the different markets such as now exists throughout the United States.

In the past grain was often graded at country points on the basis of an average for the crop which placed the best grain in lower grades than it deserved. Now a grower of the best wheat receives a premium, even under fixed prices, for his extra care in producing it. Thus Federal standards provide premium grades for grain of superior quality.

HOW GRAIN GRADES WERE MADE.

Before the passage of the United States Grain Standards Act complaints were received from foreign buyers and buyers of grain located outside the grain producing sections of the United States, stating that grain purchased frequently did not conform to the grade specifications for which their contracts called. For over ten years the Department of Agriculture has made a study of grain marketing and grain grading practices throughout the United States and in foreign trade, obtained samples of many shipments, and devised apparatus for the mechanical determination of grading factors. Before the official grain standards were adopted they were submitted to representatives of producers and to the grain trade for suggestions and criticisms, and the standards were decided upon after all phases of marketing were considered so that no single interest would be favored at the expense of any other interest.

GRADES REVISED FOR WHEAT.

Because of the abnormal conditions in the grain trade, due to the war and the resulting fixed prices for wheat, certain changes in wheat grades were suggested. A series of five hearings were held during March of this year to receive suggestions from interested persons on the proposed revision of the official standards for wheat. Out of these hearings and the practical experience in supervising the application of the standards the grades were revised to have effect July 15, 1918. The changes were all in the nature of more liberal grades, allowing a larger percentage of grains other than wheat, increase in the amount of foreign material present within each grade, and minor changes in definitions of classes and grades. Increased percentages of moisture were allowed in several grades, reduction in test weight per bushel was made in some instances, and more damaged and heat-damaged kernels allowed in some grades.

HOW GRADES ARE APPLIED.

The Bureau of Markets of the Department of Agriculture now maintains 35 local offices at the principal

grain markets to supervise the grading of wheat and shelled corn. The actual grading is done by licensed inspectors who are not employed by the Department but operate either independently from fees collected for their services or are employed by commercial or State inspection departments. The work of the inspectors is checked up by representatives of the grain supervision division of the Bureau of Markets, which also maintains district supervisors and serves as a court of appeals whenever grades assigned by inspectors on interstate shipments are questioned by growers or dealers. All this organization assures that wheat and shelled corn inspected by licensed inspectors will be graded in accordance with the same fixed standards whether sold by country elevators, at terminal markets or in foreign markets.

HIGH SPOTS IN AGRICULTURE.

Mottled butter is due largely to uneven distribution of salt.

Operation of gins at rapid speeds injures the fiber of cotton by cutting it.

Three C's for caring for milk in the home: Keep it Cold, Covered and Clean.

Oats watered to make them weigh more cannot legally be shipped in interstate commerce.

A ton of soy beans will yield about 40 gallons of oil useful in various ways.

One hundred and twenty-four pairs of birds nest on the average farm in the Northeast.

Garlic flavor can be eliminated by heating milk to 145 degrees F. and blowing air through it.

The sense of direction in migratory birds is as marvelous as it is mysterious. The familiar inhabitants of the dooryard martin boxes return the next year, though meanwhile they have visited Brazil.

The melting point of southern-made butter is higher where cattle are fed cottonseed products.

Fall plowing, disking and harrowing help to destroy eggs of grasshoppers and other insects.

Delicious table sirup can be made from cull and waste apples by home methods developed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

A FARM MADE TO PAY.

For ten years a 500-acre farm in central Michigan failed to pay interest on the capital invested. One year after the owners had been induced to make certain radical changes the farm paid all expenses of operation and returned them 5 per cent on an investment of \$60,000. These changes were:

Substitution of four-horse for two-horse machinery; substitution of better stock for unprofitable cows in the dairy herd; adoption of the silo plan; allowance to the foreman, in addition to his salary, of 10 per cent of the net income from the farm.

Expenses of operating the farm, but not the interest on the capital, were deducted from the income before the foreman received his percentage. The owners yielded to the plan when they found that for every dollar the foreman got under such an arrangement they would receive nine.

APPEALS AND DISPUTES ON GRAIN GRADES.

If a farmer or dealer interested in a lot of wheat or corn sold by grade in interstate commerce questions the grade assigned, he can take an appeal or dispute to the Secretary of Agriculture, who determines the true grade.

To take an appeal he must notify the Federal District Supervisor by telegraph, telephone, or mail, in advance of the arrival of the grain in the market, of his intention to appeal the inspector's grade; or after the arrival of the grain, within 48 hours after inspection. The name and address of the nearest Federal supervisor can be secured by writing the Bureau of Markets, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A dispute is an appeal on an interstate shipment of uninspected grain that moves between points where no licensed inspectors are located and where the grade has been determined by shipper or receiver. The method of taking a dispute is the same as in the case of an appeal.

Farmers and dealers can take up all grain grading questions by writing or visiting Federal grain supervision offices in the terminal markets.